

IV. REMARKS

Claims 17-26 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claim 27 has been added. Claim 12 has been amended. Claims 1-16 and 27 are now pending in this application. Claim 12 has been amended to broaden the scope of the features recited in the claim. In particular, the phrase "of at least one" has been inserted before "of the second compression portion". Further, the term "and", between the term "the second compression portion" and "second turbine portion" has been replaced with the term "or". The resulting language in claim 12, "a second outer support ring retaining blades of at least one of the second compression portion or the second turbine portion" is clearly broader than the original language (a second outer support ring retaining blades of the second compression portion and the second turbine portion).

The Examiner has made a restriction between Species I (Figs. 1-2), Species II (Fig. 3), Species III (Fig. 7), Species IV (Fig. 8), Species V (Fig. 9), Species VI (Fig. 10), Species VII (Fig. 11), Species VIII (Fig. 12), Species IX (Figs. 13-15), Species X (Fig. 26), Species XI (Fig. 27), Species XII (Fig. 28), Species XIII (Fig. 29), Species XIV (Figs. 30-31), Species XV (Fig. 32). The Applicant respectfully submits that the restriction appears defective at least with respect to the failure to identify any reasons for the restriction to species II. It is noted, that in raising this defect, the Applicant is not making any assertion as to whether Species II (Fig. 3) is or is not patentably distinct from any other species.

In any event, the Applicant provisionally elects species I. The Applicant notes that claims 1-16 and 27 read on Species I as well as Species II-XV. Claims 1-16 and 27 are general.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

A check in the amount of \$210.00 is enclosed for a two month extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,



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7/27/04
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: 7/27/04

Signature: Shannon Murphy
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